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EXTRACTS FROM PARAHYBA STATION JOURNAL
REGARDING SUSPECT YELLOW FEVER CASES IN
JACARAÚ.

1927
September 19.

Late in the afternoon I received a letter informing me of the presence of fatal cases of a disease with the symptoms - high fever, black vomit, jaundice, hemorrhages - in a village called Jacaraú, about five hours auto drive north of the Capital. After conferring with Dr. Guedes, I made arrangements to visit the place tomorrow.

September 20. Tuesday.

Left the Capital at 6:00 a.m., stopping at Sapé, Mamanguape and Rio Tinto to enquire if any notice of the disease had reached those places. The pharmacist in Mamanguape had heard of the cases of yellow fever (and heard of them by that name), but the doctor in Rio Tinto had heard nothing. Rio Tinto has a susceptible foreign colony of about 84 people, and has maintained its own anti-larval service since the development of cases among the Germans there last year. The service is copied exactly after ours, even using copies of our forms.

In Jacaraú I visited the families of the deceased, filled out the epidemiological reports, visited three persons who were sick, verified the presence of abundant Stegs in six out of seven houses I visited. ✓

After studying over the symptoms related, and the spacing of the cases in the various families, I made the clinical diagnosis of yellow fever in the seven cases (six fatal) that occurred between July 2 and September 14.

I reached the Capital about midnight.

September 21. Wednesday.

Sent a long telegram to Dr. Connor relating what I found and spent the rest of the day writing up the data.

Had a long conference with Dr. Guedes, who thought that the cases were yellow fever from the information on the epidemiological reports that I read to him.

Dr. Connor replied by wire that he thought, from the incomplete information that I had sent him by telegraph, that the cases were of malignant influenza. I made plans to return in a couple of days to observe further the cases which were ill when I visited the place first. There certainly were no indications pointing to yellow fever among the three persons that I saw sick.

September 22. Thursday.

Left Parahyba about noon, taking with me one of the guardas to make some inspections while I talked with the officials. I made a survey of Mananguape, and a partial one of Sapé, arriving at Guarabira about 9 p.m.

September 23. Friday.

Talked with Dr. Guedes, the Prefeito, and arranged with him to leave the guarda working in the city during the day. The doctor was out of town, but the Prefeito had heard nothing of the cases in Jacaraú.

Then I drove on to Jacaraú, stopping at Duas Estradas, which is on the railroad and has the telegraph station nearest to Jacaraú. Learned of a severe epidemic of dysentery in Duas Estradas in May, 1927, but nothing suspicious of yellow fever recently. In 1926 there were reported to have been some cases of yellow fever in Duas Estradas. Arriving at Jacaraú at 10 a.m., after driving two and a half hours over very bad roads.

I found the three cases that had been sick on September 20, all much improved, and up and around. But I saw three more children and one adult quite sick, who had taken sick since my last visit. No other developments of interest. On the way back to Guarabira I visited the village of Serra de Raiz, which is located on top of a high, isolated serra, about the most easternmost of the state. Nothing of much interest was learned there.

In Guarabira the guarda had found about 50 per cent. of the houses with Aedes foci. Our anti-larval service was stopped in Guarabira in April, but the Prefeitura continued a service until July 31, after a fashion. I reported my findings to the Prefeito and to the doctor in charge of the post of the P. R. The doctor had nothing of importance to report.

September 25. Sunday. Capital.

Dr. Connor drove up from Recife, arriving at the house at 7 a.m. We discussed the situation in Jacaraú at length, and various other less important matters. The things of importance which we discussed included:

1926 EPIDEMIC - Dr. Guedes remarked that prior to the 1926 epidemic there appeared cases of yellow fever on a fazenda belonging to a relative of his, which was very isolated in the region of Caramatú, pointing out the similarity of the occurrence now.

September 27. Tuesday.

Left Capital at 5 a.m. for Jacaraú, my third visit, in company with Dr. Ulysses Nunes, of the Saneamento Rural, who is making the trip in place of Dr. Guedes, who finds himself unable to go on account of urgent matters in his office.

All the patients that were sick on my previous visits are better to-day, but the two with slight Jaudice show that more markedly to-day. In these cases the diagnosis would certainly be influenza, if seen in any other circumstances. Therefore, I made the same diagnosis in these cases.

Returned to Parahyba via Rio Tinto, where I talked with the yesterday installed new Prefeito of the municipio of Mamanguape, also one of the superintendents of the Cia. Rio Tinto. I explained that Dr. Connor had reviewed all the data upon which I had based my diagnosis of yellow fever, and had come to the conclusion that the Jacaraú cases were not of yellow fever. Hence we were not instituting any anti-mosquito service. I requested to be notified immediately of any suspicious cases.

The Treasury of the Municipio of Mamanguape is empty, but the Cia. Rio Tinto is going to finance two guardas to work the city of Mamanguape. I offered to send the Guarda Chefe from Parahyba for a couple of days to get them started.

My company, Dr. Ulysses, left the Capital with the idea that the cases in Jacaraú were yellow fever, and found nothing to change his opinion. We reached the Capital about 10 p.m.

September 28. Wednesday.

Had a short conference with Dr. Guedes Perreira, talking over Jacaraú situation more at length. Dr. Guedes still thinks that the cases were of yellow fever. There were no new developments nor new opinions expressed.

Visited Dr. Texiera Vasconsellos in search of mortality data for Parahyba Capital, requested by Dr. Connor.

Wrote up in final form the various notes taken yesterday in Jacaraú.

October 10. Monday.

Went to Jacaraú alone via Mamanguape, returning via Rio Tinto, my fourth visit. I found all the people there recovered.

In Rio Tinto I advised Mr. Rueger that it was probable that the cases in Jacaraú were not yellow fever.

From the subsequent history of the epidemic in Jacaraú I am led to change my diagnosis of the nature of the disease. I think now that the cases were not yellow fever, but I am very much interested in determining what they were. What killed the six people? Malaria and plague seem well ruled out. There is meningitis in Brazil, but none here in the North, and no mild cases have as yet been recognized.

The chief purpose of my visit was to take blood from four-year old Francisco Fernandes for a Pfeiffer, to be done in Bahia. But I have no faith in the Pfeiffer reaction, and the result will not influence my diagnosis one way or the other. I got the blood.

October 21. Friday.

Received telegram from Bahia saying that the Pfeiffer on Francisco Fernandes of Jacaraú was negative. But, as I have previously stated, this does not carry any weight with me.

Nov. 5. Saturday.

Answering the accumulated correspondence of two weeks. Nothing noteworthy had occurred in my absence.

In the afternoon Dr. Guedes informed me that he had just been informed of new cases of yellow fever in Jacaraú. Only very meagre details were submitted.

Nov. 7. Monday.

Dr. Connor and I went to Jacaraú, a little over two hours drive from Guarabira. We interviewed the sister of the child who had died on November 1, and took the history (see ficha No. PA-17). Symptoms were very similar to the other cases, but not, in our opinion, yellow fever.

Returned to Parahyba via Rio Tinto and Mananguape, advising the officials in Rio Tinto of our diagnosis.

In Parahyba we conferred with Dr. Guedes, Dr. Connor saying that in his opinion the cases were not yellow fever, being possibly, pneumonia.

In this case, through the poor local telegraph service, a good opportunity for a post-mortem was lost. The "leading citizen" of Jacaraú telegraphed me on October 30, but the telegram was not received at this office. Had it been, there is a good chance that a doctor would have been in Jacaraú when the child died, and an autopsy would have been secured.

Nov. 12. Saturday.

Guarda Chefe and I both worked on the follow up visits. Called on Dr. Guedes, talking over the Jacaraú situation with him. With the assistance of Dr. Ulysses Nunes, translated the ficha (epidemiological report) regarding the last case in Jacaraú, so that Dr. Guedes could send a copy to Rio.

Dr. Guedes is very much worked up over the situation in Jacaraú, being positive that the cases have been yellow fever.

Nov. 12. Saturday. (Continued)

In the afternoon I called upon Pres. Suassuna, to tell him of my trip. In the course of the conversation the matter of Jacarati came up. The president remarked that he was quite satisfied that the cases were not yellow fever, upon epidemiological grounds. And he remarked that Dr. Guedes was unduly excited about the matter - and was inclined to get too excited under similar emergencies. The president impresses me as a very intelligent, alert and energetic person, of a type all too rare in Brazil.